

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed May 5, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 21-62 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 21-62 were rejected. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 21-22, 24-32, 35-36, 38-40, 42-46, 49-50, 52-54 and 56-60 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 21-62 will remain pending in this application. Of these forty-two (42) claims, three (3) claims (claims 21, 35 and 49) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Dependent claims 25, 29, 31, 39, 43, 45, 53, 57 and 59 have been objected to because of various informalities. Applicants have amended these claims to overcome these objections. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that these objections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

4. Independent claims 21, 35 and 49 and dependent claims 22-34, 36-48 and 50-62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,910,803 to Grau, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Grau") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,513 to Prithviraj *et al.* (hereinafter, "Prithviraj"). Based upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

5. Independent claim 21, recites, in part, "[a] method for implementing a service on a management portal of a network to provide a customer at a remote node with the capability to view on a web page a topology map of the network, the method comprising: generating the

requested topology map using the gathered information, wherein the generated topology map is in conformance with a graphics format; and transporting the generated topology map to the remote node utilizing a network protocol that enables the generated topology map to be linked into a web page.” (See, Applicants’ claim 21, above.)

6. As discussed in Applicants’ prior response, Grau, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner, teaches a management server station that generally monitors a network to collect, organize and record topology data. (See, Grau at col. 4 lines 31-44.) Grau neither teaches nor suggests generating a topology map in conformance with a graphics format (e.g., GIF, PNG, etc.) nor transporting such a generated topology map to a remote node. Further, the Examiner identified no support in Grau allegedly disclosing these limitations. Instead, in the Office Action, the Examiner recognized that Grau fails to disclose a user at a remote node being able to view a topology map on a web page, relying on Prithviraj for allegedly disclosing this limitation.

7. Prithviraj is directed to a network management system which enables a user to manage a network using browsers available on remote computer systems. The system of Prithviraj, however, functions in a similar way to the method of the prior art discussed in the background section of Applicants’ application. (See, Applicant’s application, pg. 3.) Particularly, Prithviraj uses a system employing applets (e.g., java applets) to generate topology maps at the remote node. (See, Prithviraj at col. 23 at lines 27-30.) Prithviraj, however, like Grau, however, fails to teach or suggest generating the topology map in conformance with a graphics format and transporting the generated topology map in conformance with the graphics format (e.g., GIF, PNG, etc.) to a remote node.

8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 is allowable for at least the reason that none of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest “generating the requested topology map ... in conformance with a graphics format; and transporting the generated topology map to the remote node utilizing a network protocol that enables the generated topology map to be linked into a web page.” For this reason alone, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 21 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

9. Applicants further respectfully submit that the Examiner’s §103(a) rejection of claim is *prima facie* improper because the Office Action has provided no citation that would supply a person of ordinary skill in the art with a motivation to combine the teachings of Grau with

the teachings of Prithviraj. As noted by the Federal Circuit in *In re Lee*, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 2002), a Section 103 rejection requires that specific reasons be shown in the art suggesting a combination of references. In the Office Action, the Examiner merely made a conclusory statement that one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the subject references, while failing to provide any basis in support of the assertion. As such, Applicants' respectfully assert that the rejection based on the combination of Grau and Prithviraj is improper and should be withdrawn.

10. Applicants further respectfully submit that independent claims 35 and 39, which include recitations similar to those discussed above, are likewise allowable over the art of record.

11. With regard to dependent claim 28, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is allowable over the cited references for at least the additional reason that none of the cited references teach or suggest "generating [a] requested topology map ... in conformance with a graphics format; and transporting the generated topology map to [a] remote node" "wherein the graphics format comprises at least one of the group comprising portable network graphics ("PNG") format and graphics interchange format ("GIF")." Although, Applicants agree with the Examiner that graphic formats such as PNG and GIF are known, none of the references teach or suggest generating a topology map in conformance with either the GIF or PNG formats and transporting the generated GIF or PNG format topology map to a remote user. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 28 is allowable over the cited references for at least this additional reason.

12. Dependent claim 32, recites, in part, "wherein [a] service provider configures a portion of the network into partitioned networks; and wherein the requested topology map is for a partitioned network allocated to the customer." In the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that column 23 lines 3-21 of Prithviraj disclose a partitioned network allocated to a customer. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

13. Prithviraj discloses a mechanism employing an applet to display topology maps at a remote node. Prithviraj does not mention partitioned networks, let alone a partitioned network which is allocated to a particular customer. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 32 is allowable over the cited references for at least this additional reason.

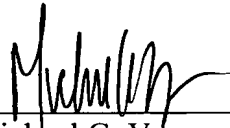
Dependent Claims

14. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

15. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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